

Message Text

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12

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SY-04 JUSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /062 W

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R 052018Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2581

UNCLAS MEXICO 5660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES ON MISTREATMENT
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS

1. FOLLOWING WIRE-NOTE SENT JULY 3 FROM EMBASSY TO CONGEN
HERMOSILLO IS QUOTED FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION.

"BEFORE RECEIPT OF YOUR 93, AND CULMINATING AN EFFORT OF
SOME WEEKS, (CONSUL GENERAL) CALLED ON DIR. GEN. CONSULAR
AFFAIRS OF RELACIONES EXTERIORES TO DISCUSS SUBJECT OF MIS-
TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS. PREVIOUSLY, ON JUNE 17,
1974, (CG) HAD RAISED SUBJECT WITH AGUILAR BY SAYING (HE)
HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTING TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH UNDER
SECRETARY GALLASTEUI TO PRESENT MEMORANDUM ON SUBJECT.
THIS MORNING (CG) LEFT MEMORANDUM (TEXT QUOTED AT END OF
WIRE-NOTE) WITH AGUILAR AND URGED THAT HE FORWARD IT
SOONEST TO GALLASTEGUI. AGUILAR ASSURED (CG) HE WOULD DO
SO AND ALSO SEE TO IT THAT GALLASTEGUI ASKS THE PROCURADOR
GENERAL TO UNDERTAKE THE INVESTIGATION WE REQUESTED.

"FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF YOUR 93 AMBASSADOR SPOKE BY PHONE
WITH DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROSALES MIRANDA AND GOBER-
NACION SECRETARY MOYA PALENCIA. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED
SITUATION AND STRESSED ITS SERIOUSNESS. AMBASSADOR
ARRANGEDFOR (CG) TO SPEAK PERSONALLY WITH ROSALES
MIRANDA (LAST NIGHT AT 6:30) AND WITH OFFICIAL OF
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PREVENCION SOCIAL (DEFINITE APPOINTMENT NOT MADE

YET). MOYA PALENCIA SUGGESTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT YOU DISCUSS THE COMPLAINTS IN THE HERMOSILLO PRISON WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF SONORA STATE AND SAID HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER WITH THE GOVERNOR OF SONORA WHO IS IN MEXICO CITY. PRIOR TO THIS, AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 19 HAD ALSO INFORMALLY RAISED SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY RREE RABASA.

"HERMOSILLO PRISONER COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY US WITH PREVENCON SOCIAL IN EARLY MAY, 1974.

"FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF OUR MEMO TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE:

'IN RECENT MONTHS THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AN INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS ALLEGING BRUTALLY, TORTURE AND EXTORTION AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS ARRESTED BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND INCARCERATED IN MEXICAN PENAL INSTITUTIONS. THE NATURE, VOLUME AND PERSISTENCE OF THE COMPLAINTS ARE SUCH THAT THEY HAVE BECOME A MATTER OF MOST SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE EMBASSY. THESE COMPLAINTS COME FROM PRISONERS, THEIR ATTORNEYS AND RELATIVES, FROM MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND FROM PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN THE WELFARE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS ABROAD. MUCH OF THE ALLEGED BRUTALITY IS SAID TO OCCUR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARREST, BUT THERE ARE ALSO MANY REPORTS OF BRUTALITY AND EXTORTION IN THE PRISONS. IN THIS REGARD LECUMBERRI PRISON IN MEXICO CITY AND THE PRISON IN HERMOSILLO ARE THE SOURCES OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PRISONER COMPLAINTS. AT LECUMBERRI, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EMBASSY HAS INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THERE EXISTS A WELL ORGANIZED SYSTEM WHEREBY MOST AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE FORCED TO PAY FROM 1,000 TO 3,000 DOLLARS IN EXTORTION MONEY TO THE CELLBLOCK LEADER - CONSISTENTLY IDENTIFIED AS ONE FERNANDO GARDINER PASQUEL. FAILURE TO PAY THIS EXTORTION RESULTS, IF ACCUSATIONS ARE CORRECT, IN ASSIGNMENT TO HARSH, UNPLEASANT WORK DETAILS AND IN PHYSICAL ABUSE. AS A FURTHER EXAMPLE, THE EMBASSY KNOWS OF THE CASE OF ONE AMERICAN PRISONER WHO HAD A FINGER BROKEN DURING OCTOBER, 1973, ALLEGEDLY BY THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE DURING HIS INTERROGATION. TO DATE THE BONE HAS NOT BEEN SET AND THE FINGER REMAINS UNCLASSIFIED

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BADLY DISFIGURED. FROM HERMOSILLO THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS THAT ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENTS AND OTHER METHODS OF TORTURE AND DEGRADATION ARE USED TO FORCE PRISONERS TO MAKE CONFESSIONS AND FOR DISCIPLINARY REASONS.

'THE EMBASSY CANNOT ASCERTAIN THE VALIDITY OF ALL THE REPORTS IT RECEIVES. HOWEVER, THE VOLUME OF COMPLAINTS

AND INQUIRIES CONCERNING THEM FROM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAS LED THE EMBASSY TO CONCLUDE THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION BY THE APPROPRIATE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES IS WARRANTED. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT SUCH AN INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT BY APPROPRIATE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES AND THAT THE EMBASSY BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS THEREOF ON AN URGENT BASIS. IN MAKING THIS REQUEST, THE EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE AND HAS TAKEN DUE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN MEXICAN JAILS RESULTS FROM THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES TAKEN BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING. "THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES HIGHLY THIS CONTINUING EFFORT AND BELIEVES IT IS IN THE OBVIOUS BEST INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ALLEGATIONS OF INHUMANE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE VALID AND, IF SO, TO INSURE THAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN."

2. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS THIS SUBJECT.

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